Indo-British trade

3564. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian side drew the attention of the U.K. side during the recent meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee held in New Delhi that it must import more from this country in order to maintain parity in Indo-British trade;

(b) whether any agreements between the two countries have been reached for improvement of trade between the two countries; and

(c) if so, to what extent it is likely to increase during 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) In the meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee held in New Delhi on 20-21st February, 1989, the Indian side drew the attention of the U.K. side on the need to correct the imbalance in trade between the two countries. It was suggested that there should be diversification in the range of items presently imported by U.K. from India.

(b) At the conclusion of the meeting, agreed minutes were signed by the leaders of the two delegations.

(c) During the year 1988-89, exports to U.K. have been showing a growing trend. According to figures available with DGCI&S, exports during the period April to September, 1988 were valued at Rs. 543.16 crores as against Rs. 480.42 crores during the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Expansion of Indo-Soviet trade

3565. SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the outcome of the talks held with Mr. I. P. Kanaev, Deputy Chairman of the Presidium, USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry for further development of trade and economic cooperation during his recent visit to Delhi;

(b) whether any Indian private firm has shown interest in setting up joint venture with Soviet Union in response to its offer; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the plans for expansion of Indo-Soviet trade and what has been the position during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Mr. I. P. Kanaev, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited India recently to participate in the 8th Indian Engineering Trade Fair held in New Delhi from 19th to 26th February, 1989 and exchanged views with a number of organisations of Indian trade and industry. These included issues related to expansion of bilateral trade, identification of new areas of economic cooperation including setting up of joint ventures, production cooperation, cooperation in the services sector etc.

(b) A number of Indian firms both in private and public sector have shown interest in setting up of joint ventures in USSR as well as in India in the fields of leather, textiles, chemicals, forest based products, etc. The proposals are in various stages of negotiations.

(c) The Indo-Soviet trade turnover during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Import	Export
1985-86	1678	2006
1986-87	1867	1867
1987-88	1279(P)	1971(P)
1988-89 (April-Sept)	684(P)	1117(P)

P=Provisional.

Source=DGCI&S.

The plans for expansion of Indo-Soviet trade include a number of steps consisting of identification of new and additional

items of exports and imports, participation in exhibitions and specialised trade fairs, exchange of business delegations, review of implementation of trade from time to time at official level, encouraging new forms of cooperation, etc.

Construction of Subernarekha Multipurpose Project in Bihar

3566. SHRI DURGA PRASAD JAMUDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Subernarekha Multipurpose Project in Singbhum district of Bihar is being constructed with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether Government are aware that the World Bank fund is being misused by the officials of the Project; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By 1994-95.

(c) No such report has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा निधि-ऋण

3567. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 28 फरवरी, 1989 के टाइम्स आफ इंडिया में "इंडिया मे सीक मोर आई० एम० एफ० लौन" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार उक्त ऋण प्राप्त करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कितना तथा उक्त ऋण संबंधी सौदा कब तक हो जाने की संभावना है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुवर्डो फेलेरियो) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) से (घ) समाचार-पत्र रिपोर्ट में उल्लिखित किस्म का कोई भी प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

Laboratory tests of samples of imported white cement

3568. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime in July/August, 1984 the Bombay Customs had sent the samples of imported white cement for laboratory tests in the Central Government Laboratory;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the test reports confirmed that the imported white cement was found to be in conformity with ISI specifications 269/1976 for ordinary portland cement as regards its physical and chemical composition; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sample of imported white cement was tested by the Bombay Custom House Laboratory in July/August, 1984, and found to conform to "IS-8042" for white cement.

(c) and (d) The imported white cement was not found to be in conformity with ISI specifications "269-1976" for ordinary portland cement as regards its physical and chemical composition.